

## **EXXONMOBIL – BAYTOWN OLEFINS PLANT EXPLOSION AND FIRE**

### **BACKGROUND: (Capitalized, Underlined, Bolded)**

- Explosion and Fire occurred at 1045 hrs on 31 July 2019.
- Depropanizer Unit – Double Stack Tower was impacted.
- Shelter-in-Place issued by City of Baytown at 1147 hours and lifted at 1507 hours
- TCEQ and Harris County Pollution Control Service (HCPCS) responded.
- EPA team responded at 1230 hours.
- EPA ASPECT Aircraft was deployed.
- ExxonMobil, HCPCS, TCEQ, EPA did not have detections of VOCs at facility fence line nor in the community.
- Firefighting water associated with water overspray was discharged out of Outfall 002 (Stormwater Outfall) and monitored for an extended parameters as directed by TCEQ.
- Fire was extinguished at 2200 hours on 31 July 2019 and vapor suppression activities continued into 03 August 2019 while de-inventorying actions continued.
- Emissions report shows the release of Nitrogen Oxides, Benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and isoprene above the reportable quantity.
- EPA demobed the facility at end of day on 2 August 2019.

### **KEY POINTS:**

- Explosion and fire was in a depropanizer unit on a double stack distillation column.
- Firefighting and vapor suppression was performed using fire trucks and in-place fire monitors.
- 74 personnel impacted – first aid and below

### **TALKING POINTS:**

- All responses start at the local level (Facility, Baytown, Harris County, TCEQ, then EPA)
- EPA conducted oversight and assisted with community air monitoring effort being performed by the facility, Harris County, and TCEQ.
- EPA activated its ASPECT Aircraft to perform aerial monitoring – no detections of were observed – of the chemicals released above the reportable quantity, ASPECT can detect 1,3-butadiene and isoprene.